

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (canceled)

B1
18. (previously added) A roadside control device for checking correct operation of a toll apparatus which is installed in a motor vehicle passing the control device and exhibiting an identifying license plate, the toll apparatus performing a satellite-supported electronic toll deduction, the control device comprising:

a) communication means for wirelessly exchanging information between the control device and the toll apparatus in the passing vehicle;

b) classification means for allocating the passing vehicle to a predetermined vehicle class;

c) evaluating means for carrying out a plausibility check of data supplied by the communication means and the classification means from and about the passing vehicle;

d) recording means for recording the license plate of the passing vehicle in case of an unsuccessful exchange of information of the communication means with the toll apparatus of the passing vehicle or in case of a negative result of the plausibility check of the evaluating means; and

e) trigger means for accurately timed activation of the communication means, the classification means, the evaluating means, and the recording means.

19. (previously added) A control device as defined in claim 18, wherein the communication means includes a dedicated short-range communication (DSRC) device.

20. (previously added) A control device as defined in claim 19, wherein the communication means is a radio device for a frequency range from 2.4 to 5.8 GHz.

21. (previously added) A control device as defined in claim 18, wherein the communication means is a terminal for one of a cellular network (CN) and a data radio network.

22. (previously added) A control device as defined in claim 18, wherein the communication means is operative to conduct a dialog with the motor vehicle in encrypted form.

23. (previously added) A control device as defined in claim 18, wherein the classification means includes a sensor system which operates in accordance with one of an acoustic principle and an optical measuring principle.

24. (previously added) A control device as defined in claim 23, wherein the sensor classification means includes an electronic image sensor.

25. (previously added) A control device as defined in claim 24, wherein the classification means operates in accordance with an optical correlation principle.

26. (previously added) A control device as defined in claims 18, wherein the trigger means includes an image sensor followed by image processing.

27. (previously added) A control device as defined in claims 18, wherein the trigger means includes a radar sensor.

28. (previously added) A control device as defined in claims 18, wherein the trigger means includes a laser sensor.

29. (previously added) A control device as defined in claims 18, wherein the evaluating means is operative to compare the vehicle class transmitted by the toll apparatus of the motor vehicle via the communication means with the vehicle class determined by the classification means.

30. (previously added) A control device as defined in claims 18, wherein the recording means includes an electronic camera.

31. (previously added) A control device as defined in claims 30, wherein the classification means includes a sensor system including an electronic camera, the electronic camera of the recording device being physically identical to the electronic camera of the sensor system of the classification means.

32. (previously added) A control device as defined in claims 18, and further comprising a receiver for the satellite navigation system used by the toll apparatus, the evaluating means being operative to compare data determined by itself with data of the satellite

navigation system interrogated from the toll apparatus, which data can be conducted to the evaluating means via the communication means.

33. (previously added) A control device as defined in claim 18, and further comprising a radio device via which a recording of the license plate of the motor vehicle can be transmitted to a control center in case of improper operation of the toll apparatus found by the evaluating means.

34. (previously added) A control device as defined in claim 33, and further comprising data compression means for transmitting data to the control center in compressed form.

35. (previously added) A control device as defined in claim 18, wherein the control device is mountable on one of a mast and a bridge construction which extends over a road on which the motor vehicle is driving.

36. (previously added) A control device as defined in claim 18, wherein the control device is arrangeable in a vehicle parked next to a road on which the motor vehicle is driving.

37. (previously added) A method for detecting correctness of operation of a satellite-supported electronic toll apparatus in a vehicle and for securing evidence in case of improper operation of the toll apparatus, comprising the steps of:

wirelessly exchanging information between a control device and the toll apparatus in the passing vehicle via communication means;

allocating the passing vehicle to a predetermined vehicle class via classification means;

carrying out a plausibility check in evaluating means of data supplied by the communication means and the classification means from and about the passing vehicle;

recording the license plate of the passing vehicle in case of an unsuccessful exchange of information of the communication means with the toll apparatus of the passing vehicle or in case of a negative result of the plausibility check of the evaluating mean; and

activating the communication means, the classification means, the evaluation means and the recording step in an accurately timed fashion.